

Leadership

NAM President Addresses OMA Board

At its meeting this week, the OMA board of directors heard remarks from National Association of Manufacturers present, Jay



Timmons. As a Chillicothe native and grandson of a paper manufacturer, Timmons has a passion not only for manufacturing but for Ohio manufacturing.

Timmons itemized the pain points of U.S. policy as they relate to manufacturing competitiveness and

indicated that it is 18% more expensive to manufacture in the U.S. than the top industrial countries against which we compete. NAM is currently revising this cost analysis and is retooling its policy blueprint for manufacturers, “The NAM Strategy for Jobs,” which will focus on four critical areas: investment, trade, skills and innovation.

OMA board leadership will seek ways for the association and members to collaborate with the NAM for effective advocacy in 2012.

Timmons made a point to thank all OMA members for their involvement in the OMA, their specific industry associations and in the NAM as they all play a distinct role in addressing their interests.

09/23/2011

Issue 2 Campaign Encourages Action

As the general election approaches, the campaign to defend Senate Bill 5 is asking supporters of the bill to take action. View the new ad, “**The Facts.**” Share this video with associates, friends and family. The campaign has also created an **Adwatch** for rebuttals to the opposition's ads.

For more opportunities to engage on the issue, visit the **action center**. The OMA has endorsed a “yes” vote on Issue 2 to uphold the collective bargaining reforms of Senate Bill 5.

09/23/2011

State Lawmaker District Boundaries Redrawn

The state **apportionment board** today posted revised district maps for state representatives and state senators. Since Republicans controlled the process, the newly proposed boundaries favor Republicans, making the swing districts safer for Republicans, likely safeguarding Republican majorities in the Ohio House and Ohio Senate in coming elections.

Click to view the proposed **house map** and **senate map**. The board will take testimony on Monday and finalize the boundaries shortly thereafter. Learn more about the process at **Reshape Ohio**.

09/23/2011

Leahy-Smith America Invents Act

On September 16, 2011, President Barack Obama signed into law the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act, which represents the most comprehensive overhaul to the United States patent system since 1836. The new legislation seeks to encourage innovation, create new jobs in the United States, and provide the necessary resources to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) to operate efficiently and strengthen the quality of issued patents. Read **more**.

09/23/2011

House Unveils, Acts on New Congressional Districts

The Ohio House this week unveiled new maps for the state's congressional districts, and then passed legislation that would create them. The bill, House Bill 319, goes now to the Senate.

The Ohio constitution gives the General Assembly the authority to draw district lines. The redistricting occurs after each decennial U.S. census.

This time around, because of declining population relative to the nation, Ohio is losing two congressional seats (going to 16 seats from the current 18). This situation has made for some nervous U.S. representatives.

The legislation combines the districts of U.S. Rep. Steve Austria (R-Beavercreek) and U.S. Rep. Mike Turner (R-Dayton), as well as those of U.S. Rep. Marci Kaptur (D-Toledo) and U.S. Rep. Dennis Kucinich (D-Cleveland). Thus, there will likely be one contested Republican primary and one contested Democratic primary pitting incumbents.

See a statewide map of the new districts [here](#). Look at each **individual** district map here.

09/16/2011

Ohio Voters to Decide Judicial Retirement Age

This November, Ohio voters will be asked to approve a constitutional amendment that would raise the age at which a state judge could be elected or appointed to 75 from the current age of 70. Ohio judges are not term limited; they are limited by age and may not run if they will be 70 on the day they would have been sworn into the office they are seeking.

Ten percent of Ohio's judges will be impacted if State Issue 1 fails. Ohio Supreme Court Justices Paul Pfeifer and Judith Lanzinger both will turn seventy before their terms expire, and consequently, will be prohibited from serving another term on the high court if voters don't approve Issue 1.

OMA counsel, **Bricker & Eckler**, provides this good [summary](#) to help voters decide.

09/16/2011

Women in Manufacturing Symposium Scheduled for October

More than 150 women executives, managers and supervisors will gather in Cleveland on October 25-26 for the first annual Women in Manufacturing **Symposium** hosted by the Precision Metalforming Association (PMA).

The event will provide an opportunity for participants to share perspectives and network with peers in manufacturing.

Click [here](#) to learn more about the event and to register.

09/16/2011

OMA Participates in Issue 2 Press Conference

OMA President Eric Burkland this week participated in a press conference of business groups supporting passage of Issue 2. Passage of Issue 2 would uphold public sector collective bargaining reforms enacted through Senate Bill 5 earlier this year.

Burkland **said**: "At its June meeting, the OMA's Board of Directors voted to endorse the defense of Senate Bill 5 against the voter referendum to repeal the law. The Board's rationale was this: We are in the midst of very difficult economic times. All of us, as families, companies and governments need to be careful stewards of limited resources. We need to exert greater controls over spending. We need to improve efficiency and productivity in all of what we do. Governments are no different than the rest of us. In the view of our organization, the cost of governments in Ohio is too high. The trajectory of increases in costs is too steep."

09/16/2011

U.S. House Passes Bill to Stop NLRB on Boeing Decision

The House of Representatives this week **passed** a Republican-backed bill that removes the ability of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) to order companies to close, relocate or

transfer employment. The Protecting Jobs From Government Interference Act (H.R. 2587) passed the U.S. House of Representatives by a vote of 238-186, largely along party lines.

"Today's vote is just one step in the process of reining in this rogue agency," said NAM President and CEO Jay Timmons.

"Manufacturers thank the members of the House who voted to pass this bill today. To protect jobs the Senate must take up this legislation as soon as possible."

H.R. 2587 addresses the issue of the NLRB trying to tell the Boeing Company that it must build airplanes in Washington State, rather than at its new state-of-the-art facility in South Carolina.

09/16/2011

The Looming Multiemployer Pension Crash

The Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), a law designed to protect employee pensions, is now bringing about the very harm it was designed to rectify and prevent. ERISA was enacted in response to public demands for pension reform. Americans (and thus Congress) would not tolerate a state of affairs where employees worked for decades believing that they were accruing substantial pension benefits to fund their retirement, only to find out that the promise was illusory. By regulating retirement plans, ERISA sought to ensure that promised pension benefits would be funded and available at retirement.

By failing to amend certain provisions of ERISA in response to changing U.S. economic dynamics that have significantly and adversely impacted the long-term viability of multiemployer pension plans, however, Congress has allowed these plans to become a \$165 billion-plus sinkhole beneath the U.S. economy -- one that grows deeper and wider on a daily basis. Unless Congress acts, ERISA, over the next decade, is likely to recreate, on a hundred-fold or even thousand-fold scale, the harm it was enacted to address and prevent. Read [more](#). From *OMA Connections Partner, Walter & Haverfield LLP*, by *Jeremy J. Sharp*.

09/13/2011

ODNR Director Leaves to Join JobsOhio

Ohio Department of Natural Resources Director David Mustine will be leaving the department to become general manager for energy at JobsOhio. In this role Mustine will head up Ohio's efforts to develop the state's oil and natural gas deposits in the Marcellus and Utica shales.

These shale plays provide Ohio with a significant economic **opportunity** for Ohio, and will require careful environmental management to assure public support in Eastern Ohio. Mustine brings extensive oil field and energy management experience to his new role.

09/09/2011

OMA Board of Directors Endorses Defense of SB 5

The OMA board this week **announced** it has voted to endorse the defense of Senate Bill 5 against the November 2011 voter referendum to repeal the law. The board announcement came the day following the last day on which the referendum could have been pulled from the ballot, which would have saved the state a costly (in many ways) ballot battle.

The board said: "Ohio faces an economic imperative to exert greater controls over spending and to improve efficiency and productivity in the delivery of government services. The OMA supports public policies that lower the cost of providing government services while increasing efficiency and productivity without compromising quality or putting our most vulnerable citizens at risk."

Engage in the campaign at <http://betterohio.org>.

09/02/2011

What Economic Development Resources are Available for Ohio Manufacturers?



That's a question Pam Butcher, President and COO of OMA-member company Pilot Chemical Company, asked the OMA. This week she and members

of her senior management team spent a day in the OMA offices to get some answers.

The Pilot team was briefed by officials from the governor's office, the Ohio Department of Development, and the Ohio Board of Regents, as well as by Mark Engel and Price Finley from OMA counsel Bricker & Eckler.

Governor Kasich is driving significant changes in the state's portfolio of development resources. The OMA will present its members with learning programs about these changes through the remainder of this year. In the meantime, if you have the same question that Pam asked, please contact [Eric Burkland](#) or [Ryan Augsburger](#). *Pictured: Pilot Chemical President Pam Butcher and Senate President Tom Niehaus at the Capitol*

08/26/2011

Try Your Hand at Drawing District Lines!

Every ten years, following the census, state officials are required to revise Congressional and General Assembly districts to reflect the changes in the state's population. Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted has created [ReshapeOhio.org](#), a tool for the public to engage in the redrawing of Ohio's political maps.

At the site, you can **learn** more about the redistricting and reapportionment processes, **redraw districts** using mapping technology, formally **submit** your proposed maps, and follow the proceedings of the **Ohio Apportionment Board** and **legislative committees** set up to take testimony.

08/26/2011

Republican Leaders Invite Senate Bill 5 Compromise to Avoid Referendum Vote

On Wednesday, Governor John Kasich, House Speaker Bill Batchelder and Senate President Tom Niehaus held a **press conference** to discuss their offer to revise the controversial public employee collective bargaining law if opponents agree to scrap their referendum effort.

The Republican leaders in a joint **letter to union leaders**, wrote: "In a matter of days Ohioans will be thrust into a costly political battle that will likely result in lasting scars and bitter divisions at one of the most fragile moments in our state's history." And further: "Outside observers, including Ohio's two largest newspapers, have rightly asked whether that recourse is our only option. It is not."

Opponents to the bill filed sufficient signatures to place a referendum on the November ballot as State Issue 2. The campaign committee for State Issue 2 has until August 29 to ask the Secretary of State to remove the issue from the November ballot. .

If the issue progresses to the ballot, a costly campaign will be waged by both sides.

08/19/2011

Comments Due to NLRB on Monday Regarding Quickie Elections

The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) is calling for all manufacturers to communicate directly to the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) about a potential rule that would disadvantage employers, and thus employees, in union organizing.

The NLRB's proposed "snap election" or "quickie election" regulation would allow unions to begin organizing a workforce secretly and then surprise an employer once enough signatures are collected. This new regulation would give employers as few as 10 days to communicate with their employees between the time they

learn that a union is trying to organize the workforce and the election.

The NAM has created online communication tools to facilitate commenting. Click [here](#) to send a short message directly to the NLRB urging them to oppose the proposed quick-snap election rules. Or, the NAM has prepared detailed, formal comments that you can personalize and send directly to the NLRB. Click [here](#) to send more comprehensive comments.

08/19/2011

OMA Members Invited to NAM Congressional Dialogue with Rep. Renacci August 25

On Thursday, August 25, The Timken Company and the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) will host a Congressional Dialogue with Representative Jim Renacci (R-OH-16) at Timken's corporate headquarters, located at 1835 Dueber Avenue, SW, Canton, OH, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

The meeting will be chaired by NAM board member, Tim Timken, chairman of The Timken Company. There will be an informal discussion of key issues impacting manufacturing and manufacturers will engage Rep. Renacci on important public policies.

Advanced registration is required. Please contact the NAM's Lisa Gilliana (773) 243-8315 or lgilliana@nam.org by close of business on Monday, August 22, to reserve your place. If you have any questions or need additional information, call the NAM's Bill Gill at (847) 549-5867.

08/19/2011

Public Forums Announced on State Tax Policy, Workforce Development and Technology

Ohio House Speaker William Batchelder **announced** this week a series of study committees that will be held in August and September to gain feedback on important issues

facing the state. The public forums will be held in Columbus and at locations around the state.

The **Tax Structure Study Committee** will examine the tax code, including the commercial activity tax (CAT). The Workforce Development Study Committee will examine the state's workforce development programs and policies. A Technology in State Government Study Committee will explore how technology may render greater efficiency and services among the public sector.

Speaker Batchelder is earnest about improvements, thus, we are encouraging manufacturers to attend to inform improvements. Contact OMA's **Ryan Augsburg** to find out how to get involved.

08/19/2011

Cabinet Leaders Visit Husky Lima Refinery Complex

The OMA organized a meeting at the Husky



Lima Refinery this week for the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) Chairman Todd Snitchler and Ohio Department of Natural Resources Director David Mustine.

The event provided a forum for the manufacturers around the Husky complex to provide information on issues related to electricity, natural gas and regulatory policy. Chairman Snitchler and Director Mustine are helping the governor develop the administration's energy policy.

Pictured RIGHT to LEFT: ODNR Director David Mustine, PUCO Chairman Todd Snitchler, Joe Martino of Husky Lima Refinery, Pat Conrath of Husky Lima Refinery, Kevin Schmidt of the OMA

08/05/2011

SB 5: A "Yes" Vote to Uphold

As determined by the state Ballot Board this week, voters will need to vote "yes" on **State Issue 2** to uphold Senate Bill 5, the public sector collective bargaining legislation enacted earlier this year. Secretary of State Jon Husted, who chairs the Ballot Board, stated that, "The Constitution and precedence set forth that the issue should be framed in the 'yes' for approval and 'no' for rejecting the proposals, and there was nothing that dissuaded me of that issue."

Meanwhile, controversy enveloped the working title of **State Issue 3**, the constitutional amendment intended to block the individual mandate to purchase health care contained in recent federal health care overhaul. Republican board members sought to title the issue, "To preserve the freedom of Ohioans to choose their health care and health care coverage." Democrat board members asked the panel to reconsider the use of the word "freedom." The Secretary of State has until August 30 to finalize the title.

08/05/2011

Health Care Opt-Out Amendment to Ohio Constitution on Ballot

This November, Ohio voters will be asked to decide if there should be an amendment to Ohio's constitution that nullifies provisions of the federal health care act of 2010.

Aside from whether Ohio citizens should or should not be required to have health care coverage (and other provisions of the proposed amendment), there is the issue of legality: if Issue 3, as this state issue is known, passes, can Ohio law trump federal law?

OMA legal counsel, Bricker & Eckler LLP, has written an excellent **analysis** of the issue to help OMA members understand important legal intricacies as they consider what's best for Ohioans.

08/05/2011

NAM Urges Manufacturers Take Recess Actions

The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) has created a **web page** with tools and suggestions for making contact with your members of Congress when they are in their home districts for the August recess, August 8 through September 6. As cliché as it sounds, the truth is: your personal contact does make a difference.

08/05/2011

Three State Issues on November Ballot

Secretary of State Jon Husted this week **announced** the order for the three certified state ballot issues for the fall's General Election. Issue One will be a constitutional amendment to revise the mandatory retirement age for judges. Issue Two will be the referendum on Senate Bill 5, the public sector collective bargaining reforms. Issue Three will be the Ohio constitutional amendment intended to block enactment of the federal health care reforms.

In the next few weeks the Ohio **Ballot Board** will meet to adopt official language to describe the three issues to voters.

07/29/2011

NAM Manufacturing Institute to Survey Skills Gaps

Every five years, The Manufacturing Institute (of the National Association of Manufacturers) and Deloitte publish The Skills Gap Report, one of the most quoted studies on the state of the U.S. manufacturing workforce. The report is compiled of data from manufacturers who participate in the Institute's survey.

To ensure the voice of Ohio manufacturers is thoroughly captured in the report, OMA members will receive an email from OMA president Eric Burkland that contains the survey link.

If you're selected to receive the survey, please take 10 minutes to voice how your company is impacted by the shortage of qualified workers with the needed skills, how these shortages are trending, and the business decisions you are making to address the issues.

The results will be published in early October, and we will be sure to report results to OMA members.

07/22/2011

SB 5 Unpopular with Ohioans

Opponents of legislation to limit collective bargaining for public employees, Senate Bill 5, have a 56 - 32 lead in the November referendum, a recent Quinnipiac University **poll** finds. The referendum was certified for the ballot by the Ohio Secretary of State this week.

According to Quinnipiac, "Republicans oppose repeal 56 - 35 percent, while repeal wins 75 - 14 percent support from Democrats and 52 - 33 percent support from independent voters."

The same poll found Governor Kasich's job approval rating dropping among surveyed Ohioans: 50% disapprove – 35 % approve. In a May 18 poll by the same outfit, the spread was 49 – 38.

07/22/2011

Partner with State Universities for Research

The Ohio Board of Regents has created a series of master agreements for use by manufacturers in contracting with public universities to conduct research. The idea is to streamline research and development partnerships between Ohio's manufacturers and the state's institutions of higher learning by providing template agreements. The concept has roots to Strickland's administration, and Chancellor Jim Petro and Attorney General Mike DeWine have elected to build on the foundation.

The Board of Regents wants to know if manufacturers would utilize such agreements.

Your comments are invited. Please contact **Ryan Augsburg**.

1. **Master Agreement**
2. **Sponsored Research Agreement**
3. **Non-Disclosure Agreement**
4. **Testing Agreement**

07/22/2011

Economic Development Changes in State Budget

Ohio's budget bill for the 2012-2013 fiscal biennium contains a number of statutory revisions that impact economic development. The bill creates new tax exemptions, credits and grant programs, as well as extends some existing tax exemptions or credits, and enacts a number of new tax breaks.

Here is an excellent summary of the changes prepared by OMA counsel Bricker & Eckler LLP.

07/15/2011

Governor Names "JobsOhio" Board

Governor Kasich this week **appointed** eight individuals to the board of directors of JobsOhio, the newly-created private sector economic development organization. Two directors are leaders of OMA member companies: Bob McDonald, Chairman of the Board, President and CEO, Procter & Gamble, and Steven A. Davis, Chairman of the Board and CEO, Bob Evans Farms.

Six existing economic development organizations have been asked to submit proposals for coordinating development activities around the state. Those entities are Cincinnati USA Partnership, Columbus 2020!, Dayton Development Coalition, Ohio Appalachian Business Council, Regional Growth Partnership and Team NEO.

07/15/2011

Manufacturers to Discuss Best Practices in Going Global

OMA Connections Partner, PNC Bank, is presenting a **webinar** on Wednesday, August 3 from 10:00 - 11:00 entitled: Going Global: Best Practices from Manufacturers.

The presenters are Mervin Dunn, president and CEO, **Commercial Vehicle Group** and Stan Hasselbusch, president and CEO, **L.B. Foster Company**.

There is no charge to participate.

07/15/2011

Chris Schmenk New Ohio Development Director

Governor John R. Kasich **announced** that the Ohio Department of Development's General Counsel Christiane (Chris) Schmenk will become the new Director of the Ohio Department of Development, following the abrupt resignation of previous director, James Leftwich.

Legislation creating JobsOhio requires a reorganization of the department. Schmenk now will lead that effort.

Prior to going to the development department, Schmenk served as the Director of External Affairs for the Scott's Miracle-Gro Company. She was an active member of the OMA Government Affairs Committee for many years.

Congratulations Chris!

07/15/2011

CNBC Ranks Top States for Doing Business

In its fifth annual **study** CNBC scored all states on 43 different metrics in ten key categories of competitiveness developed with input from business groups, including the National Association of Manufacturers and the Council on Competitiveness.

This study ranked Ohio 4th in 'infrastructure and transportation' measured by the value of goods shipped by air, land and water and availability of air travel and quality of roads.

And Ohio ranked 5th, up from 29th last year, in 'cost of doing business,' the highest weighted category, as measured by individual income and property taxes, and business taxes, particularly as they apply to new investments.

The study found Ohio the most improved state, jumping eleven places to 23rd overall due to improvement in the 'cost of doing business' category. The study points to, "A multi-year effort to reform the tax code in the Buckeye State is paying off with a tax structure that welcomes new investment."

07/15/2011

Obama Taps Youngstown Mayor as Auto Czar

U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis announced this week that the Obama administration will continue the Office of Recovery for Auto Communities and Workers. Youngstown Mayor Jay Williams was **named** as its new director. The auto office, created during the 2009 rescue of General Motors and Chrysler, was designed to aid communities who had lost an auto plant. The office had been scheduled to dissolve at the end of June.

Mayor Williams will step down from his Youngstown post August 1, and take on the new position a week later. The mayor is in his second term, and has received national recognition for redevelopment activity in the city.

07/08/2011

SB 5 Opponents File a Whopping 1.3 Million Signatures

Opponents of collective bargaining reforms contained in Senate Bill 5 **filed** petitions with 1.3 million signatures to place a referendum on the November ballot to prevent the bill from

becoming law. The number of valid signatures needed to get on the ballot is 231,147.

The Columbus Dispatch **notes**: “The last time Ohioans repealed a law through referendum - a 1997 measure reducing workers' compensation benefits - the winning side's vote total was about 1.7 million. More recently, in the last off-year election, a 2009 constitutional amendment to allow casino gambling in Ohio passed with about 1.7 million votes.”

Each side of this issue is expected to spend more than \$20 million to affect the voting outcome.

07/01/2011

"Right to Cure" Introduced to Expedite Consumer Litigation

State Representatives **Lynn Slaby** (R-Copley) and **Ron Young** (R-Painesville) were joined by Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine to introduce **House Bill 275** to enact a “right to cure” provision in Ohio’s consumer protection law.

Right to cure allows the defendant in a consumer claim to voluntarily offer to remedy the problem before going to trial. If the plaintiff declines the offer and then is awarded a smaller award at trial, the defendant is not liable for paying the plaintiff’s attorney fees incurred after the offer was made (currently required by state law).

“The OMA supports right to cure as a fair and quick method to dispute resolution, without clogging our courts with frivolous litigation,” commented OMA’s Ryan Augsburger, who chairs the Ohio Alliance for Civil Justice. Click for more information on Ohio’s civil justice system.

07/01/2011

We Love this Video

The Society of Manufacturing Engineers has produced a video that celebrates manufacturing. **Check it out.**

07/01/2011

Auto Supplier Now Makes Body Parts for Humans, Too

Astro Manufacturing, Eastlake, was recently spotlighted **in the news** for its diversification from automotive supply to manufacturing for various markets, including medical devices used in human bodies. It is one illustration of Northeast Ohio manufacturing innovation.

According to Rich Peterson, Vice President, about 50% of its business is now in medical devices, including artificial sockets and joints, spinal implants and heart pumps. Astro is currently looking to fill 30 new jobs to support its growth.

07/01/2011

General Assembly Heads Home for Summer

State lawmakers, having completed business on the state budget Thursday, left Columbus to begin summer recess. The Senate is expected to return for one day in mid-July to elect replacements to vacant seats.

Here's the session **calendar** of the remainder of 2011. Senate Bill 5, the collective bargaining referendum, and workers' compensation reform considerations are expected to be the leading policy issues of interest to manufacturers for the second half of the year.

07/01/2011